What Is Claimed Is:

1. A dissection and access assembly for performing a surgical procedure including the dissection of tissue comprising:

a cannula assembly having a cannula housing;

a dissector assembly having a dissector housing with attaching structure configured to engage the cannula housing and an elongated tube having a passage, the elongated tube extending distally from the dissector housing; and

a dissection balloon attached to a distal end of the elongated tube, the dissection balloon having a chamber in communication with the passage.

2. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the cannula assembly has a cannula defining a lumen, the cannula housing having an orifice communication with the lumen, and the tube extends through the lumen.

3. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the attaching structure includes at least one movable latch movable into engagement with the cannula housing to affix the dissector housing to the cannula housing.

4. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the cannula housing has a recess and the at least one movable latch is pivotable to engage the recess.

5. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein the at least one movable latch is biased towards an engagement position.

6. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein dissector housing has an inflation port in communication with the passage for inflating the dissection balloon.

7. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 6, wherein the dissector housing has an orifice communicating with the passage and further comprising an obturator received in the orifice so as to extend into the passage of the tube and sized so that a lumen is defined between the obturator and the tube.

8. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the cannula housing defines an insufflation port in communication with the lumen.

9. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim1, wherein the dissector housing having a proximal end with an orifice communicating with the passage and wherein the orifice receives an endoscope so as to extend into the passage.

10. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein the obturator has attaching structure engageable with the dissector housing.

11. The dissection and assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein the obturator includes a recess for receipt of the balloon when the balloon is in a collapsed configuration.

12. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the cannula has a distal end and a balloon anchor disposed at the distal end.

13. The dissection and access assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the cannula housing has a first port in communication with the lumen of the cannula, the cannula housing has a second port in communication with the balloon anchor, and the dissector housing has a third port in communication with the passage of the tube.

14. A combined dissector and cannula assembly comprising:

a dissector assembly having a dissector housing, a tube and a dissector obturator; and

a cannula assembly having a cannula housing, a cannula obturator and an access cannula , the cannula obturator being removable from the access cannula and the tube of the dissector

assembly being received in the access cannula so that the cannula assembly is movable along the tube of the dissector assembly, wherein the cannula housing has a recess and the dissector housing includes a movable member movable into engagement with the recess to secure the dissector housing to the cannula housing.

15. The combined dissector and cannula assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the movable member is a latch configured to engage the recess in the cannula housing.

16. The combined dissector and cannula assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the cannula obturator has a proximal cap with a movable member for engaging a recess on the cannula housing and securing the cannula obturator to the cannula housing.

17. The combined dissector and cannula assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the dissector obturator has a member movable into engagement with a recess on the dissector housing to affix the dissector obturator relative to the dissector housing.

18. The combined dissector and cannula assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the dissector housing includes a button engageable with the movable member to move the movable member relative to the dissector housing.

19. The combined dissector and cannula assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the dissector assembly includes a dissection balloon defining a chamber, the dissection balloon being attached to the tube so that the interior of the tube and the chamber are in communication with one another.

20. The combined dissector and cannula assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the access cannula has a distal end and a balloon anchor disposed at the distal end.

21. A method of dissecting tissue and providing an access port comprising:

providing a dissector and a cannula engaged with the dissector to form a combined device, the dissector having a tube, a dissection balloon attached to the tube so that a chamber of the balloon communicates with an interior of the tube and an obturator extending through the tube into the chamber of the balloon, the cannula having a balloon anchor;

inserting the combined device into an incision in a patient;

dissecting tissue with the dissector by inflating the dissection balloon;

disengaging the cannula from the dissector;

advancing the cannula into the incision and inflating the balloon anchor; and

deflating the dissection balloon and removing the dissector from the cannula.

22. The method as recited in claim 21 further comprising the step of removing the obturator and inserting an endoscope into the dissector.

23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the step of removing the obturator and inserting the endoscope occurs before the step of dissection by inflating the dissection balloon